

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEETING

Quite a number of our citizens met, at the Metropolitan Cafe, last Tuesday evening to decide whether or not there should be an effort put forth to revive the Commercial Club interests in Merkel. It was the unanimous opinion of all those present that such an organization is essential to the proper growth and development of a community. Mr. T. G. Bragg was elected chairman and a membership of about twenty-five was secured, from which it is hoped that a large membership will be secured.

Among the other things that came up for discussion, among the members, was a proposition to secure a flour mill and elevator for Merkel. A definite proposition has been made to this body and has been viewed in a favorable attitude by all those to whom the proposition has been presented. This proposition has made such a favorable impression on the members of the body that they, immediately, appointed a committee to see what might be done in the way of securing some local aid in promoting the enterprise. And from the success that they have had in such a short time it seems, now, the proposition is almost an assured fact that before the summer shall have ended that a flour mill and elevator will grace the enterprises of our city.

A Committee was also appointed to secure additional membership for the organization and it is to be hoped that every patriotic, enterprising citizen of our community will become an active member and pull for the benefits and upbuilding of our community. The above named proposition will come up for final consideration along with many other things that demand the attention of a well organized body that can give them the necessary attention.

SCHOOL FACULTY HAS A BIG FEAST

On last Tuesday the members of the Merkel School Faculty who live in Merkel, prepared a sumptuous feed for the teachers who do not live here. To name the various items on the menu would make the readers of the *Merkel Mail* hungry for a year. Promptly at twelve o'clock the out of towners were led to the upstairs cloak room by the ones who had with much care prepared the feast, and from the report the Mail received from an eater, what then happened was just what would be expected of a bunch of poorly paid, half-starved pedagogues. They hope a result of this banquet to be over until the salaries are raised sufficiently to get three squares a day.

It might be said by way of parenthesis that the teachers prepared the banquet live with their home folks who furnished the good eats for this occasion.

Among the articles of diet remembered by the eater to the reporter of the Mail were meat and pimento sandwiches, fruit salad, potato chips, chocolate and lemon pie, deviled eggs and ice tea. There may have been other items which were then and there devoured which an editor unversed in such names could not remember.

All in all it was a very pleasant occasion, and the out-of-towners are very thankful to the home folks for their thoughtfulness.

PRESBYTERIAN NOTES

If it is true that quality count then we may be lead to conclude that the quality of our services is fast reaching par. For, despite the unsettled conditions of the weather last Sunday, our attendance dropped under that of the previous Sunday by only nine. We know, indeed, that our people are awakened, and that the spirit of the Lord is in our services.

Last Sunday marked the close of a rather spirited contest between our two adult classes. The final count shows the younger adult class victor by five. This class is eagerly awaiting the entertainment which Dr. Johnson and his cohorts have in store for it. Watch for the announcement. To cap it all, the winners have now challenged the whole school for record attendance during June. The prize this time, a moon-light picnic. If precedent may be followed, this class, if again victorious, may challenge the Sunday schools of the town.

True to promise, the boys and girls had their special stunt after the lesson hour. But it is not recorded that the speaker made a clear get-away. However he has been warned to keep prepared, as he may be called upon for a similiar service at some later date. Let those boys and girls who appreciated the lesson of last Sunday bear this in mind and be present every Sunday. You may miss something if you are absent.

On Wednesday night of last week we met and re-organized our Workers Conference. These meetings will be held on the last Wednesday night of each month. Though you may not be a teacher, you can at least be a worker in the Sunday School; so bear the date of our meetings in mind and be on hand.

Friday night has been set aside as our night for choir practice. Our new books will be here presently; so come help us sing. Friday night of this week will be used for a general church social. This will afford a splendid opportunity for the renewing of our friendships. A special program has been arranged for this occasion, and will be rendered free to all church members. You will find it well worth the price of admission; please be on hand with a warm friendly smile.

Remember the preaching services next Sunday morning and evening at the usual hours. A good attendance at each of these services is to be desired. It will do your soul good to be there; it will assist your pastor toward more effective service.

Now, all together for the Sunday School and for the church; that the Lord may prosper.

Press Reporter.

Eld. W. G. Cypert of the church of Christ returned first of the week from Roscoe, where he had just closed a ten days revival. He reports a great meeting with some sixteen additions to the church.

Shorts and Brand at G. M. Sharp's.

MERKEL IS WINNER CLYDE IS WINNER

In a hotly contested game between Clyde and the Merkel boys in this city Monday, the home boys came out victorious, but the Clyde boys were not satisfied that they could not "come back", and invited the home team to come down to that city and try them on their home plate, which they did, and were defeated.

Our Prescription department is complete. Merkel Drug Co. tf

BIG CROWD HEARS PROHI. LECTURE

The Rev. Dr. Banks, of Boston, Mass., one among the biggest speakers of the Anti-Saloon League, now making a tour of the United States in the interest of World-Wide Prohibition delivered an interesting address at the Methodist church in this city last Monday night to a packed house.

He gave some convincing and interesting facts and figures concerning this movement and its effects upon the world and especially the United States. In fact he gave the proof of the great good accomplished as the result of doing away with the saloon in this country, and in which we believe every man who is not prejudiced as to the personal liberty question, and who stands on the side of all moral questions will agree. We do not see how any man can consistently wish to see "demon rum" and all its eniquities returned to this great nation as it was once. And yet there are men, some of them just because they have not the back bone to stand for a thing that is right, when their passion and thirst crave it, who are continually and everlastingly harping on this matter as a "personal privilege"

Ennis Grimes, of Chillicothe, came down first of the week for a few days visit with home folk and many friends. He says that his country had a good rain recently.

OIL DEVELOPMENT IS ON STANDSTILL

From appearances and report it seems that the oil development in this immediate section is and has been at a standstill for some days.

Drilling ceased on Sears well some two weeks ago, when the drill reached a depth of 3,000 feet which completed the contract. It is reported that the company is considering the advisability of putting the well down 500 or 1,000 feet deeper, and a decision on the matter is expected soon.

The Bland is shut down on account of water it is stated.

The rig and some of the tools and material are up and said to be on the ground and it is expected that the drill will soon start on the Stith Test.

The rig is up for the test on the Hutcheson tract, and this test is expected to start when other and needed material shall have arrived.

We have no news relative to the Trent test, and the Butman is drilling about 800 feet.

W. J. Higgins of route one was in the city recently and has our thanks for two subscriptions which he sends to Will Boss at Dermott, Texas and the other, which has been going to J. H. Caddell, at Dermott, he had changed to Kirby, Mont., as Mr. Caddell has recently moved to that state and place. Both these gentlemen once lived in this vicinity, and have friends who are glad to learn of their whereabouts.

J. N. Shelton splendid citizen and old timer, is having his various rent houses painted and otherwise placed in good condition. He believes in the up-keep of his town and community.

J. R. Edwards was in the city last Friday looking after his property interest.

Comb Honey at G. M. Sharp's.

NEW MANAGEMENT FOR GEM THEATRE

We understand the Gem Theatre which has been closed for the past month on account of the fire which damaged it to some extent, will open about the eighth of May under new management.

Mr. H. S. Dale of Sweetwater, has purchased the interest of Mr. Hodge who heretofore has been the manager, and will move here with his wife, and take active charge of same, under the name of the Dale Amusement Company.

According to Mr. Dale an expenditure in the neighborhood of \$7,000 will be made in remodeling, decorating and equipping this theatre and which when completed will make it second to none in this part of the country. Among the new equipment to be installed and placed will be a modern \$4,000 Electric Piano, new stage and scenery.

The new manager, Mr. Dale is recently out of the army, having seen six years service, and during the war had charge of the Government moving picture shows in the camps and cantonments, and is therefore capable of giving his patrons the best to be had in the "movie world". And which he says will be first class and the best that money can buy.

Messrs Willis & Cockrell, local painters and decorators have the contract for the interior improvements.

MAN SHOT FIRST BUFFALO IS HERE

Jack Anderson, who came to the Abilene country before Abilene existed was in Abilene Wednesday shaking hands with old friends. His home is now in California but he came to Merkel about one week ago to visit his son, R. O. Anderson, and dropped down to Abilene to give the town the once over.

Mr. Anderson came to this section in 1875, settling in Callahan county, in half a mile of the Taylor county line, southeast of Abilene. There were nine teen men and two women in Callahan county at that time, and only one man in Taylor county. This lone resident was the owner of the Dunn ranch, in the Lawn section.

"I killed my first buffalo bull in almost the exact spot where the Abilene standpipe now stands," said Mr. Anderson. He was here in March, 1881, when the first town lot sale took place in Abilene, and built the first exclusive residence in the city.—Abilene Reporter.

PRESBYTERIAN AUXILIARY

The Auxiliary Society of the Presbyterian church met with Mrs. H. C. West, on last Monday afternoon. There were twelve members present and one visitor. After disposing of the regular business routine, delicious refreshments were served.

The society will meet next Monday afternoon with Mrs. Jas West.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hicks returned first of the week from a visit to the latter's parents at Wills Point, Texas. Mr. Hicks says that country had good rains lately.

A Scant Meal

A case was reported the other day in which a dog ate a lady's shirt. The poor beast is probably still hungry.

METHODIST CHURCH NOTICE

Sunday School promptly at 10 o'clock. We will expect you to be there. Come and help keep the attendance up to the three-hundred mark. Pheachig at eleven a. m. At the evening hour, eight o'clock, the Epworth League will have a public installation of officers, and at which time they will render a special program. Some special and excellent music will be one of the features.

Then do not forget that next Tuesday night will be the first service of District Conference which will continue over Wednesday and Thursday, with preaching each day at eleven a. m. and eight p. m. The business session will be held between these hours. We trust that all Christian people of the town will attend these services. Come we will be glad to have you. W. M. Murrell, Pastor.

BAPTIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENT

Sunday School 10 a. m. with classes for all.

Preaching by the pastor 11:00 a.m. and 8 p. m.

B. Y. P. U. will have special program at Mount Pleasant church at 3:00 p.m.

Jr. Union at the annex 5 p.m.

Teachers meeting Monday 8 p. Prayermeeting, Wednesday at 8 p. m.

Choir practice following prayermeeting.

This week closes our convention year and our first annual payments on 75 million pledges should be paid not later than Sunday.

Come to any of these services and find the arty welcome awaiting you. Ira L. Parrack, pastor.

B. Y. P. U. PROGRAM

To be rendered at Mount Pleasant.

Subject, Repentance and faith looking unto Jesus." Leader Miss Ruby Campbell. Introduction by leader.

1. Repentance is a change of mind and the necessity of repentance, by H. J. Askew.

2. The nature of Faith and the necessity of faith, by Miss Althea Chamberless.

3. Quartette, arranged by choir.

4. For what are we to look unto Jesus?—Miss Dixie Howard.

5. May we hope by looking unto Jesus to be able to follow him—By Miss Wilma Garrett.

6. Vocal Solo, By Mrs. Lyton Howard.

7. Conclusion—By Rev. Ira L. Parrack.

We want everyone to go who can, with us. We leave the church at 2:15 o'clock, attend Sunday School with the Mount Pleasant people and afterwards render the above program.

Come and give us a good attendance from our church and town. President.

Your Prescriptions will be filled accurately and by registered Druggists at the Merkel Drug Company.

PRECINCT CON. AT 2 P. M. SATURDAY

Mr. J. S. Swann, Democratic precinct chairman for the Merkel precinct, requests us to announce that the precinct convention for this precinct will be held at the Tabernacle in this city at two P. M. instead of 11 a. m. at the Cozy Theatre, as stated in last week's paper. He urges that every Democrat in the precinct, who is a qualified voter to be present that a majority may speak their sentiment.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL WEEK IN TEXAS

Austin, Texas, April 26.—This is "Public School Week" in Texas. On last Sunday many of the pastors of the state spoke upon the needs of Texas' Educational system. Important facts have been compiled by the state Teachers' Association regarding the cost, cost of living and teachers' salaries for the past year in Texas. The average annual salary of Texas teachers was this last year \$544. A Mexican section hand gets about \$850 per year on the average. No carpenter receives less than \$7.00 per day. Most of them get \$8.00 per day. If he works only two-thirds of the time he will make \$1,450 per year, or over double what the average teacher gets.

This lack of adequate pay has caused to remarkable shartage in teachers. In Texas this year there were 1,827 unfilled teacher positions, and there were over 50,000 children who never entered a school house door because of having no teacher. Many of the places that were filled were occupied this year by inefficient teachers and those with no previous experience. About 40% of the teachers in Texas quit the profession this last year, and about 30% of those who quit were those who were our best experienced teachers. It means that Texas is to have no teachers at all or we will have to be content with the inefficient ones to train our Texas children.

Texas ranks 10th in the amount of school fund provided by state taxation, among the states of the union.

Texas ranks 44th in provision for the schools through local and country taxation; only four states lower, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and Montana.

Texas ranks 32nd in money spent for education in proportion to the population.

Texas ranks 34th in the money spent for education for each child of scholastic age.

Texas ranks 34th in percentage of illiteracy of persons ten years of age and over.

DALLAS TRADE EXCURSION COMING

J. C. Childress, the splendid T. & P. Agent as well as a number of our citizens, has received notice of the coming to this city and West Texas, of a party of Dallas Manufacturers business and professional men, on Tuesday, May 18. The party will make a thirty minutes stop in Merkel, and the people of this town should prepare to meet and entertain the party in due form while they are in our city.

MERKEL HIGH WINS OVER ROSCOE HERE

In one of the fastest ball games of the season, the Merkel High school boys defeated the visitors by a score of 3 to 2.

The home boys say the visitor are a fine bunch of boys and pretty good players, but just not quite fast enough for home team.

Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Comegys returned last week from their trip to Dallas, where they had gone for medical treatment for the latter, and for whom we hope immediate relief and a permanent recovery.

Mrs. Dr. Cranford is visiting a daughter in San Antonio week.

Protection!



There is a Reason for the
Guaranty Fund Law.

Ask us to explain what it
means to you as a de-
positor.

THE FARMERS STATE BANK

T. J. TOOMBS President
JOHN SEARS Vice President
R. L. BLAND Vice President
R. O. ANDERSON Cashier

went out, and after failing to answer any of the five questions asked you the teacher should pat you on the back and say: "You are a fine student" don't study any oftener than convenient.

Monday morning the High School students enjoyed an inspiring "pep" meeting though the girls did seem able to finish a yell it was not lack of "pep" that caused this flat ending, it was just the provocation of their mirth by the ludicrous yells.

After the "pep" meeting we sang a song and then went at the work of that day with a vim.

Miss Smith: "What is meant by a cloud having a silver lining?"

Charlie: "That's when a fellow is too sick to go to school."

The Demerit System is my shadow, I shall not be lonesome It followeth me up halls and down halls; it leadeth me away from temptation; it leadeth me in the strait and narrow path for my own "safety first" yea though I converse more than 3 minutes I shall not be alone for it is always behind me; it's

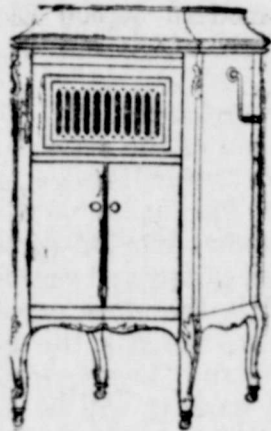
time piece and stern countenance wach over me. It maketh dates with me in the study hall; it sitteth in judgement upon me it's accusations are many. Surely call down shall haunt me all the days of my life and I shall remember the Demerit System forever.

The Farmers and Merchants National Bank will be glad to deposit in its money safe, any bonds or securities registered and left with it for safe keeping. Customers keeping bonds in private boxes, who wish this additional security should register bonds with this bank. This bank will at all times render it's customers every service that can be had by any bank. Come in and talk it over with us. Farmers & Merchants National Bank. tf

NOTICE

The family shoe shop can save you money on your shoe repairing. On Front street, one door east of Merkel Garage in Rear of the Daniel's Confectionary. Leroy Ware, Prop. tf

PATHE PHONOGRAPHS



We have a good line of
Pathe Phonographs

Also Pathe Indestructible
Records

Each record guaranteed to
play 1,000 tunes without
changing needle.

Come in and see them.

MERKEL DRUG CO.

Farmers & Merchants NATIONAL BANK

The Bank that takes interest IN YOU
as well as FROM YOU

Put it in a National Bank

WHY?

The Banks carrying the largest deposits in any city of the United States are National Banks. Uncle Sam keeps the closest supervision over every National Bank.

Every Bank keeps a directory showing the capital and deposits of every bank in the United States together with other valuable information. Our Directory is open to the inspection of all our customers, or others who may wish to find out for themselves how depositors regard NATIONAL BANKS.

HOWEVER

We are not relying on the above stated facts to secure and hold business.

OUR REPUTATION

As a Safe, Conservative Bank sixteen years in the building and the personal of our Managing officers and Directoate is our best guarantee that your funds will be sacredly guarded and that your interests will be promptly and efficiently served.

J. T. WARREN, President
GEO. F. WEST, Vice President
HENRY JAMES, Vice President
L. R. THOMPSON, Cashier
BOOTH WARREN, Asst. Cashier
E. D. TEUTON, Asst. Cashier

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

(By Lorena Frazier)

The all important day of receiving report cards is past and the pupils of M. H. S. are determined to make better grades this last period of school. The teachers are constantly asked this question or one similiar: "Can I make enough this period to be exempt?" Oh those bothersome exams!

The Roscoe Nine with a smile from ear to ear came to Merkel last Saturday with the intention of defeating the Merkel 'Tigers' but were sent back with a countenance of chagrin. This game proved to be the most interesting ever witnessed in Merkel. The High School Boys opened the eyes of all the base ball fans of Merkel by their "pep" and skillful playing. It was the fastest and best spirited game ever played between two High school teams, ending with a final score of 3 to 2 in favor of our boys.

We trust that the enthusiasm and backing showed in this game will continue in the future

What memories cling around the instruments of our pleasure? Union gives strength. We would often be sorry if our wishes were gratified.

Example is the best precept. Voices are their own punishment.

The Seniors are contemplating the production of a play, "The Daughter o The Desert." The characters have not been selected yet but sa soon as possible all will be ready for them to begin practice.

When H. S. rules are obeyed; when Mr. Cary's jokes play out; when Mr. Burgess has no announcement to make; when the Algebra class knows it's lesson when the seniors all agree.

Mr. Burgess to the Trigonometry class: "Can all you hear me back there?"

Chorus from back row: "No Sir."

After coming into class absolutely unprepared and with no use except that you went to picture show or the lights

Dry Goods - Clothing - Shoes

Prices have gone up every week
During Past Four Months

We told you before, but you may have forgotten it, that we bought many months ago and have made you nice money, as we have not put the advancing prices on any of our spring lines.

See our beautiful silk tissue gingham..... 85c
Elegant foulard silks 36 inches wide..... \$3.95
Lawns, voiles, flaxions..... 20 to 35c

Get our prices on men's Suits and Shoes

The Brown Dry Goods Co.

FOURTH CLASS POST-MASTER EXAMINATION

The United States Civil Service Commission has announced an examination to be held at Abilene, Texas on May 22, 1920 as a result of which it is expected to make certification to fill a contemplated vacancy in the position of fourth-class postmaster at Noodle, Texas and other vacancies as they may occur at that office, unless it shall be decided in the interest of the service to fill any vacancy by reinstatement. The compensation of the postmaster at this office was \$307 for the last fiscal year.

Applicants must have reached their twenty-first birthday on the date of the examination, with the exception that in a state where women are declared by statute to be at full age for all purposes at eighteen years, women eighteen years of age on the date of the examination will be admitted.

Applicants must reside within the territory supplied by the Post office for which the examination is announced.

The examination is open to all citizens of the United States who can comply with the requirements.

Application blanks Form 1753 and full information concerning the requirements of the examination can be secured from the postmaster at the place of vacancy or from the United State Civil Service Commission Washington, D. C.

Applications should be properly executed and filed with the Commission at Washington, D. C., at the earliest practical date.

The Last Straw

"I wish now," said the lecturer, "to tax your memory."
A wail in the audience: "Has it come to that?"

Take your chickens and eggs to W. P. Duckett, he will pay you 20 cents per pound for your hens and the highest market price for your eggs. tf

HONOR ROLL MERKEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The following pupils of the Merkel Public Schools have been neither tardy nor absent, have made 90 per cent in department and have made a general average of 90 percent or more for the fifth grade period ending April 16th, and thereby deserve to have their name placed upon the Honor Roll of the school.

First Grade—	
Donald Barbee,	95
Annie Lee Godwin	95
J. T. Darsey	95
Lena Rose Black	95
Ruby Blaylock	94
Vera Jones	94
Haroly Boney	94
Beatrice Porter,	93
Fannie V. Jones,	93
Madaline Adams,	93
Nona Fay Sublett,	93
Leo Tucker,	93
Narvel Mathews,	93
Youell Mershon,	92
Eula May Martin,	91
Rennell Bankhead,	91
Leon McGaughy,	90
High First Grade—	
Leona Rose,	95
Edith Smith,	95
Mary Ann Moss,	93
Clarence Sharp,	93
Hazel Leslie,	93
Henry Martin,	92
Stamford Pitcock,	92
Lilly Belle Martin	92
Wand Scott,	92
Selma Jones,	92
Colon Johnson	91
Tracy Campbell,	91
Harmon Blaklock	91
Second Grade—	
Selma Lee Russell,	93
Thelma Horton,	93
Dorothy Daniels,	93
Conley Sanders,	92
W. J. Derstine,	91
Lorene Dixon,	91
Eleanor May Hamilton,	91
Lester Patterson,	90
Parlie Post,	90
Olan Williams,	90
Imogene Agnew	90
Katherine Hogan,	90
Ava McCandless,	90
Third Grade—	
Mildred Holloway,	95
Berdelle Adcock,	95

Sterling Sheppard,	94
Annie Marie Brown,	94
Burnis Tucker,	94
Cleburne Rose,	93.7
Elizabeth Harkrider,	93.5
Iris Garrett,	93.5
Mildred Hamm,	92.4
Ethel Hamilton,	92
Agnes Sanders,	92
Pearl Avery,	91.1
Jesse Pilcher,	91
Wierman Porter,	91
Madge Crouch,	90
Adelle Harris,	90
Fourth Grade—	
Marie Pue,	95
Tommie Durham,	95
Christine Russell,	94
Delphine Moore,	94
Van Hines McSpadden,	93
Mildred Smith,	93
Ethel Madding,	93
Nina Belle Russell,	93
Monetta Adcock,	93
Henry Mayberry,	92
Daisy Price,	92
Fannie Belle Boaz,	92
Aileene Childress,	91
Inice Brown,	91
Jewell Chadwick,	91
Key Ely,	91
Lela Brown,	90
Floy Ash,	90
Fifth Grade—	
Emma Toombs,	95
Dolly Toombs,	95
Eva Mae Johnson	95
Hazel Bell,	94
Opal Horton,	94
Godie Richie,	94
Nellie Sharp,	94
Evelyn Woodroof,	94
Maud Whitlow,	93
Opal Patterson,	93
Juanita Patterson,	93
Sallie Brown,	93
Juanita Beene,	93
A. J. Tucker,	93
T. J. Beidleman,	93
Dallas Hand,	93
Mary Hutcheson,	92
Ina May Martin,	92
Belle Walker,	92
Bessie Ash,	92
Tennie May Scott,	91
Harold Miller	91
Robert Mayfield,	90
Sixth Grade—	
Oma Jordan,	97
Burnett Orr,	94.8
William Woodroof,	94.8
Ray Garrett,	93.7

Lucille Guitar,	93.5
Evelyn Curb,	93.1
Raymond Bankhead,	92.9
Dorris Durham,	92.6
Seventh Grade—	
Johnnie Sears,	96.5
Pearl Tompkins,	96
Mozelle Bankhead,	95.5
Harry McCandless,	95
Tom Cooper,	93
Myrtle Daniels,	92
Maurine Tipton,	91.5
Barto Price,	91
Ouida Campbell,	90.7
Eighth Grade—	
Elba Cox,	95.2
Ora Porter,	94.6
Irene Cox,	94.4
Hatte Proctor,	92.6
Mable Toombs,	92.1
Ninth grade—	
Carvel Tucker,	92.4
Tenth Grade—	
Myrtle Scott,	92
Eleventh Grade—	
Agnes Rister,	96.1
Julia McDonald,	95.8
Charles Tucker,	94.7
Deci Sharp,	91.3

A TEXAS WONDER

For kidney and bladder troubles, gravel, diabetes, weak and lame back, rheumatism and all irregularities of the kidneys and bladder. Regulates bladder troubles in children. If not sold by your druggist, by mail \$1.25. Small bottle is two month's treatment, and often perfects a cure. Send for testimonials from this and other states. Dr. E. W. Hall, 2926 Olive Street, St. Louis Mo., Sold by druggists.

KILL THE BLUE BUGS

And all kinds of Blood sucking insects, by feeding Martins Wonderful Blue Bug Killer to your chickens. Your money back if not absolutely satisfied. Ask Sanders Drug Store. Feb6t26

For engineering and surveying address, Geo. R. DeNise, Sweetwater Texas. 20tf

Try a sack of Marechal Neal Flower. None better, Bob Martin Grocery Company. tf

Some Telephone Facts

It Costs More to furnish Telephone Service today than it did a few years ago.

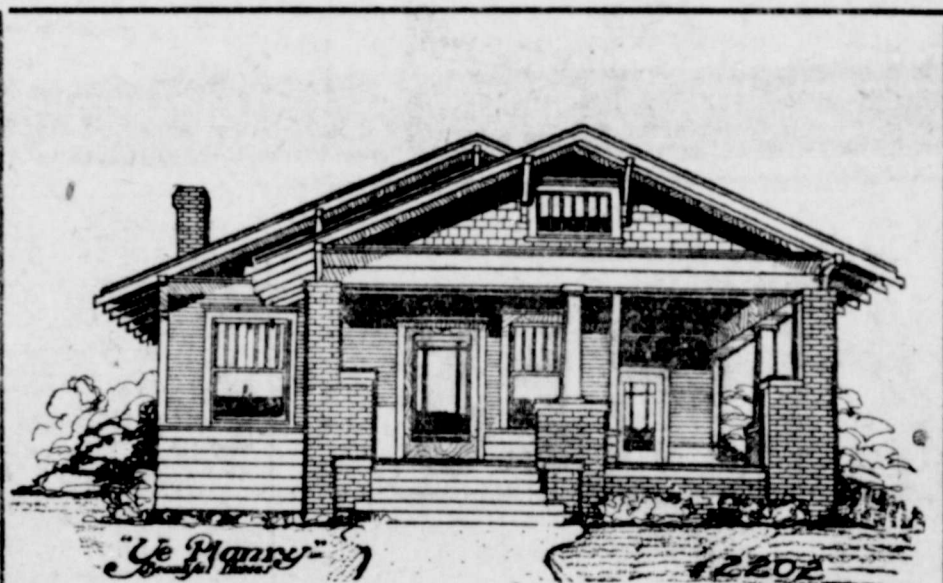
The Cost of All Materials and Labor has increased in the past few years, but telephone rates have remained fixed. It is now imperative that Telephone Rates be slightly increased in order to meet the changed conditions.

We have not been earning anything like a reasonable return and we must increase the rate to our patrons to a point where we can earn a small return on the investment.

The new rate will not yield a reasonable return, but it is imperative that we increase the rate to a point where we will not suffer a loss. The readjustment of telephone rates, however, is nothing like that in other lines, proportionately, but they will enable us to survive and properly fulfill our obligations to the public

**INCREASES IN COST OF MATERIALS
INCREASES IN COST OF OPERATION
INCREASES IN COST OF ALL LABOR**
Must increase the cost of telephone service.

The Southwestern Bell Telephone Co.



Practical Plans

- will reduce the cost of building.
- the only way to insure economy in building is to follow a carefully and expertly prepared working plan.
- “YE PLANRY” plans
- are designed by experts to meet the three requirements of attractiveness, convenience and economy.
- our Model Home Display with a large assortment of actual photographs and plans gives a wide range to choose from.
- our complete stocks of Quality Materials and our knowledge of construction can serve you.

Burton-Lingo Co.

Building Service and Material

Phone 74

L. D. Levy, Local Mgr

BLAIR NEWS

John S. Hughes and family visited friends in Hawley the latter part of the week.

Rev. Farris filled his regular appointment here last Sunday morning and night.

Mrs. Ida Belle Hughes, Miss Mary Hughes and John B. Hughes, visited Miss Draile Sunday afternoon.

T. H. Spears and family visited their daughter in Jones county Wednesday.

Although it was a bad Sunday all who went to Nubia Sunday had a good time.

How He Figured It

A Medical corps officer chanced upon a negro acquaintance of civil life one day in France.

“How do you like the army, Mose?” he asked.

“All right so far, Cap'n,” returned the negro, “but Ah don-know how I am going to like it when dem Germans shoots at me.”

“Don't worry about that,” replied the officer. “All you have to do is zig-zag.” And he demonstrated.

The next time the two met the negro was in the hospital.

“What's the matter with you, Mose?” asked the officer.

“I ain't sure, Cap'n but Ah think I must have been ziggin' 'bout de time Ah oughta been zaggin'.”

When you want to buy a Monument for that grave, See A. L. Jobe who represents one of the best Marble Companies in the United States. 27tf

I have quite a lot of Mebane seed yet unsold. According to books at Brown's gin this is the best cotton of any kind handled by this gin last season. Price \$2.50 per bushel. C. L. Tucker.tf

We serve Ice Cream every day at the sanitary self serving store. tf

COLORITE—Makes old hats new. Merkel Drug Co. tf

The Farmer's Hard Life

A visitor in the country met a farmer, Ben Smith, whose father was ninety-five years old.

“How's your father, Mr. Smith?” inquired the visitor.

“Not so well; not near so well. In fact, He's failing considerably.”

“Well I'm surprised to hear that. A few months ago you

were boasting that he was ninety-five years old and in perfect health. What seems to be the matter with him?”

“I don't know exactly,” replied Smith. Sometimes I think farming don't exactly agree with him!”

Light Crust Flour at G. M. Sharp's. tf.

FRESH VEGETABLES

Received Twice a Week

Trade with us and save money on your **GROCERIES**

Come and get our Prices and decide for yourself

Phone 26

Sanitary Self-Serving Store

For Windmill Repairing and First-Class Plumbing

SEE

BEN JONES

All Work Guaranteed Satisfactory

Headquarters with G. F. West Co.

Telephone 59

WILLIS & COCKRELL

BETTER

Painting and Paper Hanging

The Merkel Mail

Published Every Friday Morning by
THE MERKEL MAIL PRINTING COMPANY, INC.
THOMAS DURHAM, Editor and Manager

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.50 PER YEAR

TELEPHONE No. 61

Entered at the postoffice at Merkel
Texas as second class mail matter.

Any erroneous reflection on the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Mail will be gladly corrected upon its being brought to the attention of the management.

If you have visitors, or if you know any item which would be of interest to readers of the Mail, the editor would appreciate a note or a telephone message to that effect. Or, if an occurrence of unusual interest transpires a reporter will be promptly sent to get the full particulars.

PATRONS OF THE MAIL who do not receive their paper regularly will confer a favor upon the management by reporting the fact. You should also watch the label of your paper to ascertain when your time is out and renew before your name automatically leaves our list, as all papers stop when the term of subscription expires.

If the Democrats of this state repudiate as a whole, their entire policy and achievements for the past seven years, who are they and what can they expect but to see their party torn to pieces, and a return and rule of the Republican party for the next fifty years.

The prices for almost every necessity of life has been getting higher ever since the signing of the armistice, and during all this time the congress of the United States controlled by the Republicans has been constantly in session, and but one measure have they passed which can be called reconstruction legislation, and despite the fact that living prices are higher, we believe the people of this country and nation have and are enjoying the greatest prosperity they have ever experienced. We believe the farmers and the laborers in this country are in better condition today than ever before, taking them as a whole. One day this week we were in conversation with a gentleman whose occupation five years ago paid him on an average of from fifteen to twenty-five dollars per week. In fact he worked on a percent basis or guarantee, and that guarantee seldom ever ran over \$25 per week. He told us this week that he now made close to \$75.00 per week. Or about \$300 per month. And yet some people are cussing the Democratic administration and not satisfied.

On Tuesday night of this week about twenty-five live, progressive citizens of Merkel met at the Metropolitan Cafe, where they discussed the advisability of whether or not this city should maintain and support a chamber of Commerce. It was the unanimous opinion of every man present that the organization should and would be maintained. It was the most harmonious meeting of live business men the writer ever had the pleasure of meeting with. Good talks by J. C. Mason, Judge Cob, J. T. Warren and several others along the needs and benefits to be had from the work of such an organization was enjoyed by all. A committee on securing new members was appointed and will soon make a canvas of the city. So when they call on you be a citizen, and join this bunch of "live-wires" in their desire and effort to help make this city a better place in which to live. It will not cost much and it is the duty of every one to take part in anything which has for its purpose the upbuilding of the city as a whole. At the close of the meeting a delicious luncheon was served by Mr. Hancock, proprietor of the Metropolitan Cafe. The club will meet again May 7, come out and take part. At the city Hall, Friday May 7.

And Irish potatoes are quoted at 20 cents a pound! It's bad enough to talk of potatoes by pound at all, but 20 cents a pound for plain old potatoes is a good deal to give a person the

MAY 3--AT THE AIRDOME--MAY 3 MONDAY NIGHT

Pio's Native Hawaiians

Singers, Players and Dancers, featuring the "Hula Hula" Dance—and others

30-Minute Picture Program

Doors open 8:15

Admission 30c and 60c

SPECIAL SCHOOL CHILDREN MATINEE AT 4:30

AT THE COZY THEATRE

Admission 20c and 40c

'jimmies' without even smelling the cork. Potatoes should be spoken of "by the bushel" or wagon load. Really, what does the plain old Irish potato think it is these days? We've chunked dogs with potatoes that weighed half a pound. We've turned up our nose when we went to the table and found nothing for supper except potatoes "with the jackets on." The potato has long been one of the principal ingredients of boarding house hash. The potato has played an important role in Irish stew, and people have grown profane when they found too much potato in the stew. The potato has infact trotted in very poor society, but today we find it a high-browed aristocrat, occupying a front seat on the proudest menus. Really, what does the old "spud" think it is? Twenty cents a pound for plain old Irish potatoes! Bah—and worse than bah.—Honey Grove Singal.

Home dried fruit at G. M. Sharp's. tf.

TO THE PUBLIC

Syrup and lard compound by the case at Wholesale price. A.L. Jobe. It

A BEAUTIFUL DOG

Some few weeks ago a man and lady were traveling through this country enroute to a western state, had with them a small white dog, about of the "lap" variety and size which died when they were nearing Merkel. The death of the beloved "pet" brought untold sadness and grief to the owners, apparently and after hours of tearful weeping, making arrangements to have said canine elaborately prepared for shipment to their home, where an appropriate burial with all honors would be given the much worshipped "purp", but after an expenditure of about \$25.00 for embalming, the party decided they would have the "dear fellow" mounted in order that they might ever have him with them while inhabiting this earth, and arranged with Mr. Claude Comegys of this city, who while not making a specialty of Taxidermy to mount the deceased and ship same to them.

This Mr. Comegys has done, and in most beautiful and artistic style. The dog was a very pretty little white one, and Mr. Comegys has certainly mounted him in the most life-like and beautiful style. And it is likely

that the cost of all this, will in the end, amount to a hundred or two dollars.

We are now living in an enlightened age. People now demand quality not quantity. They once thought of how cheap an article was and now they think how good an article is.

Five years previous sugar was 5 cents per pound. It is now 25 cents. A swell suit of clothes then cost \$35.00. The same suit today cost \$100.00. Other things are in proportion. Five years ago suits cleaned and pressed were \$1.25. Now they are only \$2.00. Think of it people.

The tailor has to pay as much to live now as any one else, so why kick on this small raise in tailoring prices but bring your clothes to us and get them fixed up right. Mrs. L. C. Cash.

NOTICE

To those who have orders for Careyized Stock Tonic, through J. T. Dennis Store, can now call and get same.

LOST—A Twenty dollar bill on last Tuesday morning. In or about the Post Office. Finder return to Mrs. J. C. Crouch and receive reward. 1tp

THE MERKEL PRODUCE CO.

We notice in last weeks paper where a certain person advertised himself as manager of our business. Now this was a mistake in said person, and not the Editor, and we don't want our customers to get confused as to who is manager of our business for we are here to stay and do honest business. MERKEL PRODUCE COMPANY, Floyd Haney, Manager. On Kent Street, near Blair Hotel. 1t

NOTICE

If you want cash and the highest price for your chickens and eggs take them to W. P. Duckett the Manager of the Merkel Produce Co., that has been with you for 11 years and will stay with you 11 years more. tf

FOR SALE—80 Acres of good level land, 50 acres in cultivation well improved, 4 and a half miles southwest of Merkel, one mile of Blair. In oil territory but not leased. E. Barnes, Merkel, Route five. 30t2

We have a new stock of Groceries in connection with our produce business. Come in and see us. Merkel Produce Co., Near Blair Hotel on Kent St. 23t2p

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements are made subject to the action of the Democratic Primary in July, 1920.
District Offices \$15.00
County Offices \$12.50
Precinct Offices \$8.00

For District Judge, 42nd Judicial District:

E. M. Overshiner
W. R. Ely, of Baird.

District Clerk:

James W. Mayfield
J. Knox Fuller

For Sheriff:

John Bond (re-election)

For County Judge:

W. E. Martin
J. W. Moffett

For County Attorney:

Carlos D. Speck,

For County Tax Assessor:

Mrs. Florence Vance
Roy Parmelley

County Treasurer:

Austin Fitts.

For County Clerk:

(Miss) Fannie Tippet

For Tax Collector:

D. T. Harkrider
J. N. Routh.

County Commissioner of Prec. 2

S. A. (Sid) Coats.
W. H. Frazier

County School Superintendent.

John F. Odor.

John R. Hutto

For Public Weigher:

J. M. Garrett

On next Saturday, May one, there will be held in every voting precinct throughout this state a primary convention, the purpose of which is to elect delegates to the County Convention which will meet at the county seat in every county on the following Tuesday, May 4 where delegates will be selected to the state Convention which will meet the last of May, at Dallas, and there delegates selected to the National Convention, where the Democrats of this nation will nominate a candidate for president. There is but one question to be settled, or before the voters, and that is, whether or not they will select delegates who will be instructed to repudiate the whole National Democratic policy, or be instructed as endorsing the whole administration. In this convention both MEN and WOMEN, who are qualified voters are entitled to participate.

Comb Honey at G. M. Sharp's.

Read the Merkel Mail everyday

DRAUGHON'S

PRACTICAL Business College
ABELLE, TEXAS

Only well-known Business College in West Texas. Thousands of firms nearer our Employment Department than any other. Money-back contract guarantee position. Catalogue FREE



It is a powerful and scientific combination of sulphur and other healing agents for the relief and cure of diseases of the skin. It is especially effective in the ITCHING VARIETIES; giving instant relief from the itching and smarting sensations and by its germ-destroying properties it exterminates the microbe which is the cause of the eruption, thus curing the disease completely.

Littell's Liquid Sulphur Compound is used in all cases of Eczema, Tetter, Barber's Itch, Psoriasis, Herpes, Rash, Oak and Ivy Poisoning, also for relieving the annoyance caused by chiggers and mosquito bites.

In the treatment of ECZEMA—the most painful and obstinate of all skin diseases—it is one of the most successful remedies known.

Small size 50 cents bottle. Large size \$1.00
JAMES F. DILLARD, Prop. St. Louis, Mo.

TIRES TIRES TIRES

Just Received a Large Shipment of

United States Tires

SEE US BEFORE YOU BUY

U. S. Tire Milage is Unexcelled

Our Prices are Right

BEASLEY BROTHERS

AMATEUR NIGHT

By EDWARD W. GILBERT

(Copyright.)

Clarsie paused, trembling at the forlorn little stage door of the London Theatre, on the Bowery in New York. Nothing but the memory of her landlady's last grim words, "Tomorrow I want the room, or the rent," would have given her courage to enter. But a long sickness, dull times in the paper-box trade (making it impossible for her to get a job), and the end of her meager savings, had brought her to the problem of where to shelter on the morrow, and how to eat; her last meal having been the previous evening.

She had often seen the flaring posters of the amateur nights at the London, setting forth the cash prizes to the best act, and a wild hope had grown in her mind that she might win, not, perhaps, the first prize of five dollars, but perhaps the second, and that would mean shelter for another week and enough food to keep her fluttering soul and frail body together, and so she stood hesitating on the threshold of her greatest venture.

She might have lacked courage to enter, but the doorkeeper, happening to look out, saw the wavering little figure and asked, not unkindly:

"What d'ye want?" Clarsie murmured something in which he heard the word "amateur."

"Got your name down?" asked he. "All right, go on in, Jim, put this lady wit' the amateurs."

She found herself one of a line of people, mostly boys, standing with their backs to the wall of a narrow passage. In front of her was a typical East Side boy, in little cap, green-red sweater, and depressed-looking canvas shoes. Along the line ran a buzz of conversation, rough jokes, and Bowery slang.

"This your first time, lady?" asked the lad ahead of her.

"Yes," said Clarsie faintly.

"What's your act—singin'?"

She nodded faintly.

"I'm buck-dancin'," said her new acquaintance. "This is my fourth time."

A crash of music from the front, and the chorus trooped past, off the stage, and scattered to the dressing-rooms. Clarsie heard dimly, as from an immense distance, a voice say:

"Gentlemen, the amateurs will now perform. We have a large list tonight, and I think you will be much entertained."

Clarsie opened her eyes and saw, standing in the entrance to the stage, a man with a tired and cynical expression. Beside him stood a figure whose eyes, to Clarsie's eyes, was the most brilliant she had ever seen. The man was of great height and thinness.

"I'm glad to see you here," said this apparition to Clarsie in evening dress, and then her eye fell on the line, "Ah, the new girl, what a girl, too?"

"Oh, we have them sometimes," said her companion.

The white hussar shrugged her shoulders and walked past them, but as she passed, her eyes met those of Clarsie, and the look of fright, pain and helplessness that she saw there startled her. She stopped suddenly.

"Don't be so frightened, little girl," she said, "or you'll go up in the air."

She gave her a rough, friendly slap on the shoulder, turned and stepped back to the wings just as the manager, with his list, stepped out on the stage. "We have first," came the voice. "Barney Dooley, buck-dancer."

"That's me," said the youth in the green-and-red sweater, as he ran on to the stage.

A noise, like the roaring of the sea, greeted him. Cat-calls, hisses, hand-clapping and wild whoops were mingled in a continued roar.

"You here again?" "Oh! Barney, why don't you die." "Take it away, take it away."

During this infernal concert, Barney gravely footed it, and, as a hall of small coin descended upon the stage, without losing a beat of his feet, he bowed and gathered them into his pockets.

"Take it away, take it away, take it away."

"Scuse me," said a man at Clarsie's elbow, pushing past her. In his hands was a ten-foot pole with a red iron hook on the end, and while she looked with horror, he placed it around Barney's neck and dragged him from the stage, amid sounds like the roar of a menagerie.

The manager, who had never changed his expression of weary indifference, glanced at his list, and said, coldly: "We have next, Miss Clarsie Ellis, in songs."

A cry greeted this announcement.

"Oh, Clarsie! oh, Clarsie!"

"Come out here, Clarsie."

"We dare you, Clarsie."

"Go on," said the white hussar. "Don't let them buffalo you."

The next moment Clarsie found herself facing a whirling mass of tobacco smoke.

The leader shook his bow, the orchestra played, and she stood dumb. Her lips opened; her throat worked convulsively, and she went through the motions of singing, but was still dumb. She would have run, but she was anchored with fright. Something struck Clarsie on the cheek and fell tinkling to the stage. With the clearness of sight that the dying are said to possess, she saw that it was a silver coin.

"How cruel," she said, and rage

blazed in her and drove out all fear. "I will sing," she thought, and she threw back her head, proud and brave, and her voice rose and soared clear and triumphant over that sea of cruel faces.

At the first words of the old song, the noise broke out afresh, and some called insistently for the hook, but the high voice of the Dispenser of Doom in the gallery called, "Shut up; give her a show," and the noise died down. She was no longer frightened, and the golden voice rang through the theater: Saddle my horses and call out my men. Open the west gate and let me go free Where there's room for the bonnets of bonny Dundee.

At the end of the verse, a pause, and then came a crash of applause, repeated again and again. One malcontent called "Aw, the hook," but twenty voices roared, "Drop on yourself."

She sang her song through, and at its close there came a whirl of hand-clapping, stamping, and the gallery boy's whistle, high-pitched, and a rain of coins.

Clarsie turned and walked blindly toward the exit, but the manager stopped her.

"Go back and bow and take your encore," he said. "You've made good; don't you hear them? Go back and pick up your money."

Shaking with revulsion, fighting hard to keep down hysteria, she turned again, bowed right and left, and sang again—and again the crash of hand-clapping.

"Pick up your money," called friendly voices. "Pick it up, take your time, get it all; it's yours; it belongs to you; don't be bashful."

She picked up the money till her hands were full, and taking a hint from poor Barney, she took off her shabby little sailor hat and poured the coins into it. Then, smiling and crying together, she bowed again and stumbled off.

A strong hand caught her and she heard, all faint and far, the white hussar saying, "Get a drink of water, somebody. Don't you see she's dying?"

"No, I'm not," said Clarsie. "I'll be all right soon."

"Guess you will," said the other. "You're all right; first prize for you. All you wanted was to be woke up, but you'd be there yet, planted, if I hadn't fired the quarter at you and got you going."

"Here," she continued, "let me tie your dough in your handkerchief."

"Not—not—that quarter," stammered Clarsie; "I—I—want that to keep."

"Well," said the white hussar, "I'm going. Good night!"

She gave her a strong handclasp, and swaggered off.

Clarsie turned to a boy in the line and asked, "Who is that?"

"What," said he, "don't you know? That's Lola Rivers. She owns the show that was playin' here tonight. She's a bird; makes ten thousand dollars a year with her show."

Through the wet streets Clarsie stumbled homeward, in a dream. The hard bundle of coins she held tightly. First, at a little oyster-house, she ate, breaking a fourteen hours' fast. Then, to her room, where she counted her earnings. Seven dollars and sixty-five cents, and five dollars first prize, not much to you, perhaps, who read this, but to her the gift of life, of shelter and food for a month to come.

Next day, she met the dragon of the furnished-room-house without shrinking, and paid her. She still felt weak and sick and remained indoors all day to rest.

As dusk was falling there came a stately step up the rickety stairs and a knock at her door.

"Can I come in?" asked a voice that she knew well, though heard for the first time the night before.

She opened the door, and, all tremulous with timid gratitude, she ushered Lola Rivers into her room.

If Lola had looked tall in her hussar dress, she looked taller in the little room. Her head seemed almost to touch the ceiling. Her presence seemed to fill the mean room with light and warmth. She was magnificent and arrayed like the lilies of Solomon.

She sat on the edge of the bed, looked long at Clarsie, and said:

"You made good last night. You've got the voice, and know how to use it. Good singing is always a paying act, and all you need is to learn acting and dancing, and that I'll teach you myself. I'll take a chance on you, and take you out with me, and pay you—yes—I'll pay you twenty-five a week this season, and if you don't get the swelled head and are willing to learn, there's no reason why, in two years, you shouldn't be on Broadway. All my girls get there in time. What do you say?"

What did Clarsie say? If Mansfield said to a supe: "You shall support me next season." If Kipling said to you: "My boy, that's a good story of yours, will you collaborate with me?" What would be the reply? Well, then, you know what Clarsie said.

That is all, except that if you doubt this to be true, when next you go to see a certain young star who has had a rapid and amazing success, look at her closely, and you will see that she wears around her neck a fine gold thread, on which there hangs a silver quarter.

Grasping.

"How do you suppose the grain of wheat got in the mummy's hand?"

"Probably some Egyptian profiteer overdid it in limiting the supply and holding out for the highest price."

Decidedly Not.

"It is sometimes necessary," said Jud Tunkins, "to wallop a mule. But the man who breaks a rib or a leg with it is no good disciplinarian."

COZY THEATRE

2 to 5:30	SPECIAL MATINEE SATURDAY P. M. (2:00 to 5:30)			Admission only 10-20c
	"Fatty" Arbuckle in "He Gets into Trouble"	Tom Mix in "Weary Goes Wooing"	Wm. S. Hart in "A Knight of the Trail"	

Friday, April 30
A Good Variety Show
Including
Helen Holmes
IN
"Fatal Fortune" No. 14

Monday, May 3
A Good Variety Show
Including
"The Great Gamble" No. 7
and
"The Invisible Hand" No. 7

Wednesday, May 5
Tom Mix **Joe Montgomery**
in in
"The Speed Maniac" "Footlight Maids"

Saturday May 1
George Walsh **Louise Fazenda**
in in
"The Beast" "Back to the Kitchen"
MUTT & JEFF in "Nooze Reel"

Tuesday, May 4
Marguerite Clark **Fox News**
in **Topics of The Day**
"A Widow by Proxy" PATHE REVIEW

Thursday, May 6
Wm. S. Hart
in
"Breed of Men"

Ten Boarders and Roomers FOR SALE—Large House, Lum
wanted at once.—Mrs. I. J. Log-ber enough to build good barn.
16t3p I. H. Yates. 23t2p

PIGS—None better in Taylor
County. See or phone J. S. Hit-
son. 1tpd

CLASSIFIED ADS

Milk cows for sale see Chas.
Orr, Rt. 3, Merkel, Tex. 26t8p

I have a registered Jack a
horse and jersey mail for serv-
ice at Boney Stable. See Tom
Jenkins or L.L. Huddleston. 2t6p

LOST—Black Shepard dog with
brown spots over eyes and under
throat and legs. About 9 months
old, has been gone about two
months. Any information will be
very much appreciated. J. L.
Barker, Route 4, Merkel Tex-
as. 23t2p

FOUND—Auto Tire Pump. Own-
er can get same by describing
the pump and paying for this
notice. See or Phone Dr. J. T.
Pue. It

FOR SALE—Milk cow, Wagon,
Disc Harrow, Sheet Iron Cistern
of twenty-five barrels, New four
burner Oil Stove and planter,
Most of this stuff is first class.
See J. C. Nunlee, Five miles
east of Merkel. 30t3p

FOR SALE—Or trade a five
room residence, located on North
Kent Street. Would take Ford
car in deal. J. J. Lacy. 30t2p

FOR SALE—House, close in on
the South side. Will take good
Ford car as first payment. S. F.
Haynes. tf

FOR SALE—My Merkel home
Price \$5000. Cost of improve-
ments. Write Dr. O. F. McMaster
Port Lavaca, Texas. 13tf

COLORITE—Makes old hats
new. Merkel Drug Co. tf

FORDS FOR SALE—Two new
Ford touring cars. See C. T. Mer-
shon, Merkel, Texas. 1tp

STRAYED OR STOLEN—a red
whiteface heifer. Low, chunky
and very fat. Left my place 3
miles north of Merkel. Notify
H. C. Floyd, Merkel. It

LOST—A small bundle of dry
goods containing some green
Taffeta. Thought to have been
placed in the wrong car. Please
return to Dennis Store. 1tp

HAY—Car Alfalfa this week.
Swafford, Phone 291. 1te

STRAY MULE—I have in the
City Pound, a blue colored mule,
about two years old. Branded H
on left shoulder. T. M. Pribble. It

FOR SALE—The Butman Gin.
Would sell all or half interest.
For particulars See E. H. Ray,
Merkel, Box 96. 30t2p

LOST—A Wrist watch, between
Merkel and Noodle last Sunday
Finder return to Mrs. C. L. Cav-

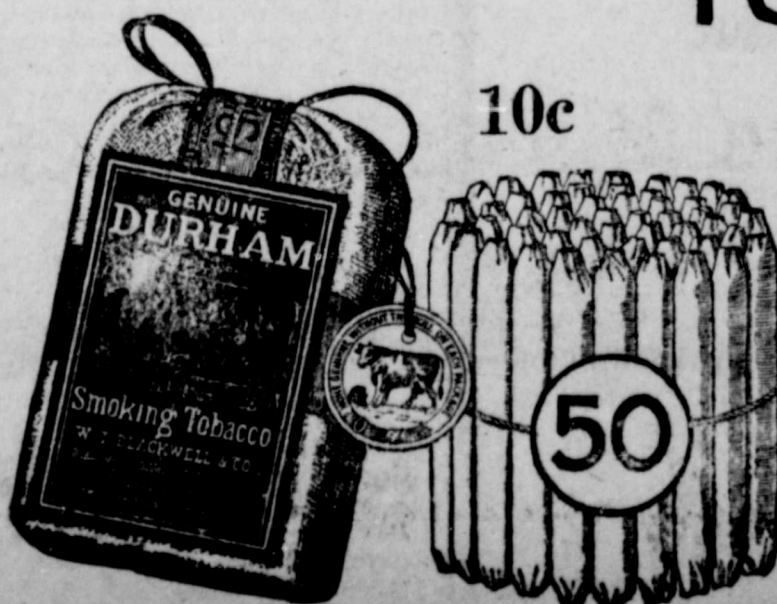


HE'S THE OLD RELIABLE

GRAND old "Bull". He's the best there
is. He sold over 300,000,000 bags last
year.

You know genuine "Bull" Durham—
never an enemy; millions of friends.
Genuine "Bull" Durham tobacco—you
can roll 50 cigarettes from one bag.
That's some inducement, nowadays.

GENUINE
"BULL" DURHAM
TOBACCO



To pipe smokers:
Mix a little "BULL"
DURHAM with
your favorite to-
bacco. It's like sugar
in your coffee.

Manufactured by
The American Tobacco

Carries
Blue Ribbon Paint

Nails
Screen Wire



You Must Build

to make profits; you can't get ahead waiting for lower prices that may never come.

☛ We are fortunate to be able to get the building materials that we need. Waiting for better conditions is stagnation and poor business.

☛ We will help you to the lowest building material prices that are possible today, they may be higher tomorrow. You better start at once.

SERVICE FIRST QUALITY ALWAYS

Phone 62

MERKEL LUMBER CO.

N. D. COBB, MGR.

LUMBER & BUILDING MATERIAL MERKEL, TEXAS

P. S.—Do not wait for low prices
Buy Now

Lime
Brick and Cement

Window
Glass

SUNDAY ICE

Commencing Sunday, April 25 we open the Ice House from 7:00 to 9:00 A. M., and will positively not open only on those hours. Bring your coupons or money. Come early. Ed's Ice Co. 23t2c

—CREAM—CREAM—

We are now prepared to buy cream. Merkell Produce Co. 23t2c

The Daily Sacrifice

Hattie—Nubb's wife worships him, doesn't she?
Mattie: Well, she places burnt offerings before him three times a day.

Oil Lease on 186 acres of land for sale. Seven miles from Sears well, 4 miles northeast Eskota, Cheap. Address: L. C. Murray, Trinidad, Colorado, 319 Frost Avenue. 23t3p

A Scant Meal

A case was reported the other day in which a dog ate a lady's shirt. The poor beast is probably still hungry.

Your Prescriptions will be filled accurately and by registered druggists at the Merkell Drug Company. tf

Fresh Cream Meal at G. M. Sharp's. tf

Wash the Most Efficient Way



The doughboy found the work of the French Laundress crude, decidedly inefficient, unsatisfactory—About 25% efficient.



In our own country some folks have not progressed much farther. Some still bend over the steaming, sloppy tub and rub the clothes away. Bad for clothes and woman! . . . It's about 50% efficient.



The Electric Washing Machine cleanses the clothes thoroughly without injuring them. The operator is spared all the drudgery of other methods. Cheaper—Quicker—Better!

The Electric Way Is Most Efficient

EFFICIENT ELECTRIC WASHERS—AT OUR SHOP—ON TERMS WHICH WILL PLEASE YOU

MERKEL POWER COMPANY

DANIEL WADE AS CUPID

By LATIMER J. WILSON

(© 1926, by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

The great interior court of Electric Square resounded with the unharmonious music of typewriters. When their "click-clicking" ceased to pour from the hundreds of windows at noon and at five o'clock, the numerous elevators filled to overflowing and crowds of girls and men swarmed out of the massive doors of the skyscraper. Streams of humanity they flowed down from the lofty heights to swell the already flooded current of downtown Broadway.

It was barely one hour before the opening of the noontide flood gate. The anteroom office boy, that individual in uniform and buttons who demands your name and your business, had grown restless. During a lull in business he poked his head into the room of No. 22, where Miss Maybelle Kinney performed the duties of stenographer. In years she was less than twenty-two, while the office boy, heralded merely as Dan, though his name was Daniel Howard Wade, tipped the scale of years at fifteen.

"Z-z-z-z-t!" he significantly sounded in a kind of tongue whistle. "Has Mapes asked you to lunch with him today?"

"Get out of here and mind your own business!" commanded the girl threateningly.

"I'll bet you're going to lunch with him. Gee! Won't you look fine when you're Mrs. Mapes! You'll get along without a looking glass every time Mapes takes off his lid. Why, May! You can curl your hair and paint your lips in the reflection from his shiny top whenever his hat's off! Ouch!" he screamed in a whisper when the handle of her paper knife rapped his knuckles. Steps were heard approaching the door from the adjoining office, and the boy quickly ducked back into his own room.

The door opened and a tall, slender young man, somewhat older than Maybelle, came in with a handful of letters. He was not at all bad looking, but the top of his head, the very top—was shockingly bare.

"Here, Miss Maybelle, you can look after some of these—" Mr. Mapes was about to say more when he suddenly discovered that he had left something important in his office. Just as the door closed behind him, Maybelle was summoned to another office by the little call button indicator at her desk. As she started out of the door Daniel poked his head into the room.

"Ta-ta! You're going to lunch with Mapes, I'll bet!" he whispered loudly. The girl reddened and scowled at him. When she came back into her room, about half an hour later, she brought more letters and found upon her desk the one Mapes had gone back to bring. There was also a little note from him, asking her to lunch today. He said he would come by for her at noon.

Maybelle could think of no plausible excuse for not going to lunch with her fellow employee of the office staff. She had not thought enough of him personally even to dislike him until young Wade began to tease her. Then she could see nothing but Mr. Mapes' depleted summit every time she sat opposite him at the crowded table of the restaurant. His fiery gaze of affection was futile in its attempt to melt the icy unconcern of her manner.

He was hopelessly in love, though she had not imagined it until Wade pointed the direction of the wind. Now Mapes' attention irritated her and she wanted some polite excuse for refusing him. She walked over and looked out at the maze of windows in the wall opposite.

In her dust-dry garden of business routine the girl longed for a breath of youth and companionship, but Mapes fell short of the mark. She decided that whatever happened she wouldn't go another time with him to a picture theater or a restaurant.

Absently her gaze fell upon a window directly opposite her own, but on the floor below. A young man stood in plain view, looking straight at her and smiling. In his eyes at that moment she thought she read the romance of moonlight, springtime, youth and adventure. There was no mistake. He was looking all of those things right at her.

His hair was roached back in the most genteel style. His brows were arched exquisitely above his dark eyes, which now sparkled with merriment. He was surely smiling at her, and she looked away abashed at first; then back at him with an answering but inquisitive expression. She saw him reach across his desk for a sheet of letter paper, upon which he printed in large, clear letters with a pen:

"EAST DOOR AT NOON."

She had never seen him before, but from that moment he was a new and intense interest in the routine of Electric Square. Maybelle decided that she might as well trust her noon hour with him as with Mapes, and he was so much better looking than the latter. So she nodded "Yes," and adjusted her pearl-bead necklace while she smiled and blushed.

Just then the door opened and Mr. Mapes came in.

"Miss Maybelle—you read my note, I suppose. Well, here I've come for you. Will you let me have the pleasure?" He seemed to take it for granted



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NOTICE TO PUBLIC

I am preparing to take care of your building needs, have plenty of first class carpenters. Come and see me and let me figure your work. Estimates
P. L. McClary Con
Phone 19.

ed that she would go out with him.
"Thank you very much, Mr. Mapes. I have other plans for my noon hour today, and cannot accept your invitation," was her businesslike refusal. He was plainly surprised, and with the instinct of jealous natures at once suspected the cause.

"I'm sorry, Miss Maybelle," was all he said.

Following her a few minutes later he saw her hurrying toward the eastern doorway of the great building, where she met and timidly shook hands with a young man. Mapes lost trace of them in the swift current of the crowd.

"Don't you think we ought to be introduced?" Maybelle asked her escort.

"Why, I hadn't thought of that. We already know each other's names. I'm Romeo—so—you're Juliet, don't you know?" he laughed.

She did not exactly understand, but persisted in her own way.

"I mean," she said seriously, "it isn't right for me to be walking with you when we don't even know each other."

"Do you mean to say you don't know who I am?" he laughed. "I found out your name a week ago, Miss Maybelle Kinney. Well, anyway, I'm Tom Wendell, alias Romeo, and right here's where I feed every day at 12:15. Will you sten in?"

It was one of those restaurants where an orchestra played dreamy melodies and harmonies that suggested moonlight, springtime, love and romance. In the eyes of the young man she saw these things reflected.

So this was the beginning. Mapes never had another chance at the noon hour. The girl and Tom were always together then, and often they met after closing hours and on holidays.

One day Tom dropped in at her office, where he was clandestinely admitted by Daniel.

"How do you like this one?" asked Tom when they were alone. He slipped a delicate little band of ornamented platinum set ablaze with a pure blue-white diamond upon her finger. It flashed in a thousand hues the brilliant glory of the sunlight slanting through the magic window where he had first seen her.

The door behind them stealthily opened and the round face of Daniel beamed at the lovers.

"Say!" comically whispered young Wade as they wheeled around at him. "Here's where you kids ride on the band wagon! Sis told me to take up a bunch from the office and bring them down for a lark next Saturday night. You know Sis!" he addressed Maybelle understandingly.

"Certainly; did she tell you to invite me?" she asked.

"Yes, she did! She said to tell you to bring along your sign man."

"My what?" cried the girl.

"This guy here that answered my ad," commented Daniel complacently.

"The ad, I mean, that I put on a card in your window when you were out."

"What does the crazy kid mean?" Maybelle asked Tom. The young man seemed to see a new light breaking in the eastern part of his memory.

"Why, he means, I guess, the printed sign in your window which first attracted my attention there and made me dream of you nights."

"Explain!" demanded the girl.

"Read it yourself," blatted Daniel, taking from his pocket a worn but neatly-folded sheet of paper. Maybelle was astounded to see printed in large letters:

"HELLO, ROMEO! WHEN AND WHERE CAN WE MEET?"

"Of course I knew you didn't do it." Tom lied to the girl. "But I'm glad somebody started things our way."

Fresh car of Peacemaker
Flour at G. M. Sharp's. tf

Read the Merkell Mail everyday

A SPECIAL SALE ON SILK and Dress Goods

All Next Week, Beginning Saturday, May 1st

AT THE ECONOMY STORE

20 per cent off on all men's Clothing ☿ 20 per cent off on all Shoes
One-half price on all Silk Dresses ☿ One-third off all Millinery
Get my prices on Silk Shirts

Panamas! Panamas! Panamas! All Shapes and Styles

THE ECONOMY

On your way to the Postoffice

Try a sack of Marechal Neal Flour. None better. Bob Martin Grocery Company.

We have just received a nice line of genuine Cut Glass. Merkel Drug Company.

TELEPHONE RATE INCREASE

When asked regarding the increase in Telephone rates in Merkel, manager Stone, of the local exchange of the Southwestern bell Telephone Company said:

"We shall increase the telephone rate in Merkel on May 1. On and after that date the business rate will be increased from \$2.75 to \$3.25 per month, and the residence rate from \$1.75 to \$2.00 per month. This is made imperative because of the rising costs with which we have been constantly confronted for the past few years. This has made it necessary that we obtain additional revenue.

"Public Utilities are the only class of industry in the United States today that have to sell their products, which in our case is service, at a price lower than other lines of business, proportionately. And this notwithstanding the fact that we are being eaten alive by the unprecedented and extraordinary increase in the cost of materials and labor. These have been costing us from 40 to 200 per cent more and we have had to pay more for the money used in the extensions.

"These extensions, by the way are not made out of our revenue. If we add poles or a switchboard we get the money to pay for it in the form of new capital. We have to bid for that money and we are only able to get it in so far as we are able to show that the money already invested in our exchange is yielding a fair return. With the fixed rates, our revenue has retained stationary while the expenses have been mounting higher and higher each month.

"However, there has been a nation-wide recognition of the necessity of protecting the credit of the public utilities and throughout the United States local and state officials have recently granted relief to them in the form of increased rates. About 87 per cent of more than 500 requests for increases have

been granted.

"Nothing like an adequate return can be expected in the new rates in Merkel, because there will be further and permanent increases in the cost of furnishing service. The new rate will, however, lessen the burden and give us a chance to continue to fulfill our obligations. We consider it to be our duty to furnish the best service to the greatest number at the lowest fair rate. But it also is our duty to fix the rate so as to pay adequate wages to our employees and earn a return on the investment sufficient to attract new money. The gravest danger to this community is that capital should lose confidence in our industry, making it possible for us to obtain additional capital for extension to plant."

NOODLE NOTES

Rev. W. K. Horn filled his appointment at Amity Church last Saturday night and Sunday. The County Missionary Rev. Johnson was there and he did the preaching.

Rev. Horn preached to a large crowd at Noodle Sunday night. Rev. Horn is also holding a series of services this week at night at the Methodist church.

The public School will close in two more weeks with a program at night.

Mr. and Mrs. Janes and family are visiting Comanche this week.

Mr. R. A. Regan has been in Fort Worth a few days the past week. "Blue Eyes."

WHAT WE ARE

We are specialist in finding eye defects by scientific measurements. If we find treatment necessary, we tell you so; if we find lenses necessary, we prescribe the proper lenses and see that you get them. Dr. McGuire, Optometrist, will be at Dr Smith office Thursday, May 13. 3022c

Read the Merkel Mail everyday

QUEENSWARE

Just received shipment of Gold Band and Plain White Queensware.

also shipment of
Pyrex Glass Baking Dishes

Our stock is getting larger all the time
Our service we are trying to improve

PHONE 43

if you want something in hardware
quick—we deliver promptly

We have a few "Bill Planters" that are
not sold we didn't know we were going to get.

Lawn Mowers, Screen Wire
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Anything you want
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we've got 'em

They are Fresh
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Come to see us

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Front Street

Phone 195

LOCAL NEWS

R. O. Anderson, cashier of the Farmers State Bank, accompanied by his father, Mr. J. T. Anderson, and John Sears, returned Wednesday from a business trip to Wichita Falls.

We understand G. M. Sharp purchased this week the building just west of the Crown Hardware Company, from W. A. Scott now of California, but who once lived here.

Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Scott, and Mrs. Scott's Sister, who is here for a visit to the latter, returned first of the week from an outing and fishing in the San Angelo country. L. B. says they had a great time, including the catching of some fine fish, poison Ivy or something of the kind. At least we are sure that San Angelo is now a "dry" town, if L. B. eyes do lead one to believe to the contrary.

—CREAM—CREAM—

Bring your cream to us Wednesday and Saturday. Merkel Produce Co., On Kent St., near Blair Hotel. 1tc

STOCKMEN NOTICE

I have good Bay Draft Stallion. Fees \$7.50 Cash A. B. Cranston, 4 miles northeast of Stith. 30t2pd

HOUSEHOLD GOODS FOR SALE

Fifty pound capacity refrigerator \$12.00, Library table \$11 two beds and springs, \$8.00 and \$16.00 extension dining table \$8 Sideboard, \$10.00, \$5.00 rocker, \$2.50, Three oil lamps, music cabinet \$10.00, dresser and wash stand \$15.00, Center table, \$2.50 Heater, \$3.00 and three irons etc Mrs. E. A. Campbell, Phone, 121. 30t2c

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For anything in the line of printing come to us and we'll guarantee you satisfactory work at prices that are right

GRANTED BENEFIT OF ORDEAL

Native African Accused of Witchcraft Not Condemned Before Given So-Called "Trial."

A clear distinction must be made between fetish and witchcraft, says a writer in the Wide World Magazine. The former is regarded by the black man as perfectly legitimate; the latter he looks upon with hatred, and all over Africa summary methods are used, as in olden days in England, with witches.

One or other of the law-god-cult societies—those secret societies bearing such names as Purroh, Oru, Egbo, Ukukuwe, etc.—intervenes, and a trial by ordeal follows. In fact, anyone can claim that right. A says to B: "You're a witch." "I'm not!" ejaculates B, who immediately takes a calabar bean and swallows it. B dies, or is very sick; therefore he is the guilty person, and this long before the elaborate mechanism of the law society has heard of the dispute.

If B wants to have a big palaver, and run himself and his accuser into a lot of expense, he has a right to call in the aid of the society; but he needn't.

Witchcraft is a dangerous word to use in an African village. Miss Kingsley relates that you have only to shout "Ifot" at a man or woman in Calabar, or "Ndo tchi" in Fjortland, and the whole population, so good-tempered the moment before, is turned blood-thirsty. But, mind you, the ordeal must prove the guilt first, before the witch is literally torn to pieces.

Age of Wisdom.

He—Old Grogshy told me today that he sincerely regretted his mis-spent youth.

She—I'm delighted to hear that he's repented at last.—Columbia (S. C.) State.

Well, They Had Fingers.

As the revolution of 1688 in a few English noblemen owned a dozen forks.



SPECIAL SALE ON DAINTY BLOUSES

In voile, organdy and in the best shades of georgette crepe.

Just received a line of \$7.50 georgette blouses that will go on sale at **\$5.95**

A big assortment of voile and organdy blouses, on sale at **\$2.45**

Visit our Millinery Department Saturday for **EXTRA SPECIAL BARGAINS**

WOODROOF-BRAGG CO.

We have in a nice fresh stock of groceries and our prices are right try us. You need our business and we need yours. Merkel Produce Co., The new store on Kent Street. 1tpd

Plenty of Sudan Seed for sale. See A. J. Cannon, Merkel, Route four. 23t2p

THURSDAY CLUB

Mesdames Charles H. Jones and James H. West gave open meeting to members of the Thursday Club, their husbands, and a few friends of Mr. F. K. Rister on Oak street. The guests

were most cordially received by the hostess and after much lively conversation they were ushered into the beautifully decorated dining room. The color scheme red and white was carried thru out. Here delicious punch and candy were served by Misses Alice McGee and Lillie Pratt Sears.

Hand painted scorecards were passed and after securing partners six games of blind 42 was played, Dr. R. I. Grimes making high score for the men and Mrs. Briggs for the ladies. Mrs. Jones in her most pleasing manner and eloquent words on brilliancy presented Dr. Grimes with a brilliant dinner ring and in like

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FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS

Do Your DUTY, Parents!

It is not only the parents RIGHT or PLEASURE to have a good family photograph made of all their children, but it is their DUTY. You owe it to yourselves, your children and your kinsmen. How often have we had parents lament to us the fact that they had never had a family group made—after the children had left home and—yes—after some had departed this world. Photographs are seldom luxuries, they are more often valuable possessions.

"Photographs of the Better Kind"

THE COZY STUDIO

Phone 314

JNO. C. REINHARD, Manager

manner James West presented Mrs. Briggs with a brilliant bar pin.

Then came the mysterious "Little man's dance". The little three foot man being no other than the 6 foot Charles Jones, but with his Charlie Chaplin mustache, Turkish Cap, Rose sweater and small hands and feet and pleasant smile he well did justice to Vernon Castle while Mrs. L. B. Scott with her skillful touch gave spice to the "Little man's dance". This caused great merriment for the guests as no one understood just how such was possible and each expressed themselves that this was really the feature of the evening.

Miss Marian Mitchell in her most charming way gave a song contest each to draw a picture of a popular old song. This was greatly enjoyed by all and some hidden talent was displayed in drawing such artistic pictures. In this contest Miss Floyce Boyd was winner and was presented with a dainty handkerchief by Mr. Jones and Dr. Grimes, winner for the men was presented with a linen handkerchief by Miss Mitchell.

Delicious refreshments consisting of shrimp salad, combination sandwiches, potato chips olives, sherbert topped with strawberries, served in hand-made red paper cups. This was served to about forty guests.

The evening passed all to soon and each were loathe to leave but expressed themselves as having spent an enjoyable evening in this hospitable home.

GEORGE ELIOT ON PEDESTAL

Great Novelist May Be Said to Have Been Victim of Her "Fool Friends."

The gay world, which forgets everything, has forgotten what a solemn, what a portentous thing was the contemporary fame of George Eliot, Edmund Gosse writes in the London Mercury. It was supported by the serious thinkers of the day, by the people who despised mere novels but regarded her writings as contributions to philosophical literature.

On the solitary occasion when I sat in company with Herbert Spencer on the committee of the London library he expressed a strong objection to the purchase of fiction and wished that for the London library no novels should be bought, "except, of course, those of George Eliot."

When she lived critics compared her with Goethe, but to the disadvantage of the sage of Weimar. People who started controversies about "evolutionism"—a favorite Victorian pastime—bowed low at the mention of her name, and her own sound good sense alone prevented her from being made the object of a sort of priggish idolatry. A bigwig of that day remarked that "in problems of life and thought which baffled Shakespeare her touch was unerring." For Lord Acton at her death "the sun had gone out," and that exceedingly dogmatic historian observed, ex-cathedra, that no writer had "ever lived who had anything like her power of manifold but disinterested and impartial sympathy. If Sophocles or Cervantes had lived in the light of our culture, if Dante had prospered like Manzoni, George Eliot might have had a rival."

It is very dangerous to write like that. A reaction is sure to follow, and in the case of the novelist so modest and strenuous herself but so ridiculously overpraised by her friends it came with remarkable celerity.

MULBERRY ITEMS

Farmers who have wheat sowed can at least get what satisfaction my be had from the fact

INSURE YOUR PROPERTY

NOW

It matters not how careful you may be, the fire bug will creep upon you unawares. We have an example in our school building. No one knows how it caught. It started in a part of the building least expected. Your property may suffer the same fate.

We handle reputable lines and can give you the best of service.

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WHY NOT GET YOUR

Silverware Free

By trading with Merchants who appreciate and value your trade?

The following merchants will give Coupons with purchases made at their store, which will entitle you to this Silverware when presented in sufficient numbers. Call on them and see what they have to offer. They are

The Merkel Drug Company
Barrow Furniture Company
Bob Martin Grocery Co.

that their wheat sales will very likely make no appreciable increase in their income tax.

Lee Billingsley of Lamesa, was a recent visitor to the Merkel country.

Mrs. Bersha Barker and little son Willie, returned Saturday from a weeks visit to the family of Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Barker of Floydada.

Mrs. Betty Chancey and children spent Sunday with Miss Frankie and Maggie Lee Chancey.

W. C. Moore is sick at this writing.

Mr. and Mrs. Aron Horton, and Mr. and Mrs. Will Moore and Milborn Warner, visited Mr. and Mrs. Sam Martin Sunday afternoon.

Last week Milton Walsh looked like a stray thunder cloud had settled on his brow. It was not caused by the dry weather but the fact that he is having

to haul water. His wife was away, and he was doing the cooking and washing the dishes.

Mrs. Dave Price and Mrs. S. N. Redding were the guests of Mrs. Bristoe Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Barker attended church at Salt Branch Sunday.

Mrs. Gladys Thomas and children of Merkel, visited Mrs. Myrtle Welsh last week.

B. N. Billingsley decided he would go to Abilene and went to get his Ford. He turned on the gas and pushed the "self-starter" but it didn't start. He pushed it a dozen times, more or less, but there was nothing doing. He got resentfully out and grabbed the crank and wrung it around and around but the only obvious result of his efforts was a perspiration. He jacked up a back wheel and cranked it some more. He pushed it out of the garage by main strength, and indignation, and rolled it down an incline, in the effort to "get up steam" and show it what it was expected to do. He raised the hood and glared barefully at the mystery of it's "innards", and expressed strongly, and unreservedly, his opinion of Fords in general, and of his Ford in particular, which he had run into the garage the night before apparently full of "go", and now after twelve hours of doing nothing was out of fix and refused to budge. After he had wasted enough energy to have brought an extra tire, if it had been expended on something that paid, and had broken the ten commandments and the ordinance against loud and abusive language.

They found that what the car needed to put it back in fix again was a quart or so of gasoline. Zelds.